



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kelly D. Jones  
Serial No.: 10/713,540  
Filed: November 14, 2003  
For: Connectors and Railing  
System Having Metal Balusters  
Isolated From Corrosion

November 30, 2004  
Group Art Unit 3679  
Examiner: John R. Cottingham

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee for excess claims is believed to be due. In the event that additional fees are due, however, or in the event that additional time is necessary to render the amendment timely, the Commissioner is respectfully requested to extend the shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office action and he is authorized to charge the appropriate fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 06-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Grace J. Fishel  
Reg. No. 25,864

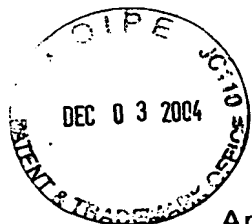
(314) 878-0440

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 30, 2004.

  
Grace J. Fishel

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AMENDMENT A

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to an Office action dated August 30, 2004, please amend  
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A connector for use in isolating painted  
tubular metal balusters from rails formed of wood treated with a wood preservative  
that is corrosive to the tubular metal balusters or from a wood preservative that is  
corrosive to the paint, said connector formed of a chemically inert material and  
comprising a body and a flat disk,

said body having an upper frustum with a top and a base and a lower  
frustum with a top and a base, said upper and lower frustums joined at their bases,  
said body adapted to conform and wedge into an end of a tubular metal baluster;  
and,